

Healey reasserts control over MLR

LONDON, May 25 (AP). — The Bank of England and the Treasury today jointly announced that they will take direct control of the minimum lending rate (MLR) — the basis for all interest rates — instead of letting the rate set itself automatically by current market rates. Although the present rate of 9 per cent is unchanged, the decision in effect revives the 270-year-old bank rate, abolished by the Conservative government of Edward Heath six years ago. The joint statement said that recently the present system had led to erratic movement in interest rates, and since the Treasury and bank were ultimately responsible for MLR's level, Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey had opted in future to determine the rate by administration decision.

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Egyptian Communists arrested

ALEXANDRIA, May 25 (R). — Several people have been detained on charges of being members of the banned Egyptian Communist Party, the public prosecutor here said today. Prosecutor Sami Barbari would not disclose how many, but said police had found leaflets in their homes "instigating the Egyptian people against the government." The move against Communists followed a massive "yes" vote in a referendum ordered by President Anwar Sadat last week to clamp down on the Egyptian left. The mass-circulation newspaper Al Akhbar reported today that 22 people were detained yesterday in connection with the Alexandria case.

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Washington puzzled by Dayan's remarks as Israel reiterates U.S. rejected Egyptian plan

JERUSALEM, May 25 (AP). — Egypt has submitted its own peace plan to the United States as a counter-proposal to the Israeli plan, but Washington returned the draft to Cairo as unacceptable, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday. Spokesman Michael Shiloah, clarifying remarks made by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to parliament Wednesday, said the United States refused to convey a text of the Egyptian plan to Israel.

In a separate development, he said the State Department had reported Cairo's answers to Israeli questions aimed at unblocking a procedural stalemate in peace negotiations. There was no evidence of an impending breakthrough in Mr. Dayan's remarks, despite the resumption of diplomatic contacts after a moratorium of several weeks.

Mr. Dayan's report to the Knesset, made without notes, left reporters uncertain on what Washington had rejected and what Israel had received. The State Department, in a statement only deepening the confusion, later said it was "puzzled" by news reports of Mr. Dayan's speech, some of which were inaccurate.

Mr. Shiloah said Israel was told of the Egyptian draft but was not given a copy. Dayan said the Americans found the proposals "so impossible that they -- to put it diplomatically -- returned them to their authors."

The State Department statement said: "We have conveyed no document to Israel as suggested in the reports of the May 19 (Friday) meeting..." On Friday, U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met Dayan to present what Dayan called "a detailed memorandum including various elements." Mr. Shiloah said Mr. Lewis read from a file of notes, but no document exchanged hands.

The memorandum contained Egypt's replies to these questions: Is President Anwar Sadat prepared to negotiate on behalf of Jordan and the Palestinians over the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River? If not, is he prepared to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel over the Sinai Peninsula?

Mr. Dayan posed these questions when he was in Washington one month ago, hoping to shelve unsuccessful negotiations for a declaration of principles that would serve as a cornerstone of future treaties.

Without referring directly to the Egyptian replies, Mr. Dayan said: "It is the position of Sadat today that he is not willing to make a separate agreement... I have great doubts whether he sees himself authorized to make an agreement over Judea and Samaria," he said, using the biblical names for the West Bank.

Mr. Dayan also gave an indication of the main points of the Egyptian plan. He said Mr. Sadat demanded total withdrawal from territory captured in 1967 and the chance for Palestinians to choose independence. Israel rejects both ideas.

Israel also was asked by the Americans how it sees a settlement for the West Bank after five-year transition period of self-rule by the 1.1 million Palestinians living there and in the Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Menachem Begin told a party caucus Thursday that his cabinet would discuss its answers at its next regular meeting Sunday. He said the discussion was likely to take two weeks, Israel Radio reported.

U.S. and Israeli sources said they believed the Egyptian replies to Israel were not final. They said President Sadat appeared to be waiting for the Israeli responses before reconsidering his own position.

Congratulations pour in as Jordan marks 32nd Independence Day

AMMAN, May 25 (JNA). — As Jordan marked its 32nd Independence and Army Day, cables of congratulations poured in from Queen Elizabeth of Britain, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the Shah of Iran, King Juan Carlos of Spain and a host of others.

His Majesty King Hussein also received cables of good wishes from King Hassan of Morocco, President Sadat of Egypt, President Bourguiba of Tunisia, President Baker of Iraq, President Boumedienne of Algeria, Col. Qaddafi of Libya, Sultan Qabus of Oman, Lt. Col. Ahmad Al Ghashimi, president of the North Yemen Command Council, Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani and Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad, as well as the Mayor of occupied Gaza, Rashad Al Shawwa.

Public and private celebrations were held throughout the kingdom to mark the occasion.

Prince Hassan tours industries in Warsaw

WARSAW, May 25 (R). — Crown Prince Hassan yesterday toured Warsaw and some of the city's biggest industrial plants on the second day of his official visit to Poland.

The Prince and his wife, Princess Sarvath, then went to the Baltic coast where they saw the shipyards of Gdynia and toured the medieval city centre of Gdansk (Danzing), rebuilt from ruins after World War Two.

After his arrival Tuesday, the Prince had talks with a senior party official Edward Babuch and head of state Henryk Jablonski, centering on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The visit is the first at this level between the countries since they established relations in 1964.

As rebels wait to close in

French begin pullout from Zaire

PARIS, May 25 (R). — France began withdrawing Foreign Legion forces from Kolwezi today after ensuring that whites had been evacuated from the area invaded by rebels in southern Zaire.

But Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko complained that he had not been advised of the French pullout.

And diplomatic sources in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, reported that between 150 and 300 rebels were hiding in the bush ready to move back into Kolwezi once the legionnaires had gone.

The French Defence Ministry

said the paratroopers, who dropped last Friday into the mining town where up to 200 Europeans were slaughtered by rebels, had started to pull back to the Shaba provincial capital of Lubumbashi before leaving the country. The withdrawal was expected to take about 36 hours.

Government sources reported meanwhile that during a Franco-African summit in Paris this week France had given its total support for the concept of a pan-African force to police the continent's trouble spots.

The sources said the creation of such a force would enable France -- with troops on three African battlefronts, Zaire, Chad and Mauritania -- to step down from its role as "gendarme of Africa."

Last year France provided air force transports to fly Moroccan troops to Shaba, the troubled Zaire province.

But the government sources said President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing told Gen. Mobutu yesterday that France would not intervene in Zaire again, whatever the circumstances.

Soviet criticism

The Soviet Union today accused France of staging "neo-colonialist ventures" in Africa amid growing signs that the Kremlin is abandoning its long-standing reluctance to criticize French foreign policy.

Following increasingly bitter attacks on the French role in events in Zaire by the Soviet media, the official Tass news agency charged that French and Belgian troops had massacred Europeans there to blame the killing on rebels.

President Mobutu complained today: "The (French) president told me that the French paratroopers would withdraw from Kolwezi once their mission was finished. But he did not tell me of the imminence of their withdrawal."

He nevertheless praised France lavishly for its action in Zaire, saying it was the only western nation to respect its obligations towards African countries.

Informed sources said the Foreign Legion had captured

rebel documents in Kolwezi written in Spanish -- a pointer to possible Cuban links with the Shaba rebels. The documents were being flown to Paris for analysis.

The Defence Ministry said about 1,000 rebels had been killed in Kolwezi, but informed sources estimated the total at some 2,000. About a third were killed in battles for control of the town and the rest died at the hands of townspeople, the sources said.

They reported that many rebels tried to escape by changing into civilian clothes when French forces landed, but were later found murdered.

Moroccan troops in Zaire? According to the Defence Ministry, 100 Moroccan soldiers had arrived in Kolwezi to reinforce Zairean troops left behind to garrison the town.

But travellers who left Kolwezi this morning said they saw no sign of Moroccan troops or an immediate French evacuation by air.

The travellers said the French legionnaires held sway over an area about 10 kms. around Kolwezi.

But they had not completely driven off rebels hiding out in the dense bush where they had covered a retreat into Zambia and Angola by hundreds more insurgents of the Congo National Liberation Front (FNL).

Diplomatic sources said the French withdrawal would increase apprehension among white residents in remote Zaire towns that could be the target of future rebel attacks.

The legionnaires had been expected to stay on in the Kolwezi area until a proposed pan-African force took over from them. The Moroccans were described as the vanguard of the African force.

But Kolwezi's future without French presence appeared highly uncertain, the sources said.

Military sources said the legionnaires had neither the equipment nor the men to mount the kind of major offensive that would be needed to wipe out rebels remaining in the bush and prevent them from regrouping.

Earlier, ELFCR communiques claimed "thousands" of Ethiopian troops were taken prisoner and proposed an exchange through the International Red Cross.

The agency speaks for the Eritrean Liberation Front's Revolutionary Council (ELFCR), the largest group waging a 16-year-old breakaway rebellion of the former Italian colony annexed by Ethiopia and that provides its only sea outlet.

Another major guerrilla group has denied that an Ethiopian general offensive to crush the rebellion has been launched, saying the Addis Ababa regime of Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam was only massing troops and armour for a four-pronged offensive.

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Officials said Mr. Vance yesterday won an assurance from Somalia that it would not use force in any future attempt to change its borders with its neighbours in the Horn of Africa -- Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Mr. Vance told ABC-TV there was no reason for the forces to remain in Ethiopia now that its Ogaden desert war with Somalia was over.

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illias, each made up of 15, were surrounded by UNIFIL troops in Israeli vacated areas near the port city of Tyre and in the foothills of Mount Hermon.

Commanders of both parties told reporters they belonged to the rejection front, the radical flank of the guerrilla movement headed by Dr. George Habbash's Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The five-man team that accompanied Mr. Arafat during his talks with Dr. Al Hoss did not include any PFLP representative. A PFLP official said the group's leadership was holding a meeting later today to define its stand on the PLO commitments to the Lebanese government.

Several previous agreements to regulate guerrilla presence in Lebanon remained unfulfilled because of disputes over interpretation or radical intransigence.

The PLO summed up the outcome of the Al Hoss-Arafat talks as follows: "1-The PLO assured the prime minister of its eagerness to facilitate the mission of the U.N. forces in order to bring about a total Israeli withdrawal from the south and re-establish Lebanese sovereignty in the region."

"2-The PLO condemned all negative practices and violations in the south," and expressed its full readiness to exert all efforts to prevent such actions in the shortest possible time to safeguard Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

"3-The PLO emphasised its intention to end armed manifestations in the south to help legitimate authorities discharge their duties and extend their sovereignty in the area."

"4-At the request of the prime minister, the PLO will seek to ensure the repatriation of volunteers" who came to resist the invasion of the south.

"5-It was agreed to continue meetings to organise Lebanese-Palestinian relations in a way that will safeguard Lebanese sovereignty and serve the Palestinian cause."

Asked how soon would these commitments be translated into reality, Dr. Al Hoss said "Quickly, God willing."

Weizman slams remarks by Israel's U.S. ambassador

Occupied Jerusalem, May 25 (R). — Defence Minister Ezer Weizman today criticised Israel's Ambassador to the United States Simcha Diniz for remarks he made in a television interview concerning Israel's invasion of south Lebanon.

Mr. Diniz quoted Israeli intelligence reports which said that up to 200 Palestinians guerrillas had returned to areas in south Lebanon evacuated by Israeli forces following the March 14 invasion.

Mr. Weizman told a meeting of the ruling Likud Bloc parliament members that Mr. Diniz's remarks could be interpreted as criticising Israel's operation to stop guerrilla activity in south Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources said the alleged Ethiopian offensive in Eritrea had strained the Soviet Union and Cuba's relations with leftist Arab nations backing the Eritrean revolt.

Syria has declared all-out support for the rebels against Mengistu's Soviet-backed regime although the Syrians are the largest recipients of Soviet arms in the Arab World.

Iraq, also a close Kremlin ally in the Arab World, was reported to have "advised" the Soviet Union and Cuba against taking any part in Ethiopia's efforts to quell the Eritrean rebellion.

The ELFCR's communiques have made no reference yet to any Soviet or Cuban participation in the alleged offensive.

Vance gets tough on Ethiopia

In New York, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said today he will urge a Soviet and Cuban military withdrawal from Ethiopia when talks open with the Soviet Union on curbing the nuclear arms race.

Mr. Vance said on American television his discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko tonight would centre on the Strategic Arms Limitation talks (SALT).

But he also planned to speak "very frankly and in a straightforward fashion on Africa."

Cuba and the Soviet Union now have 17,000 military advisors in Ethiopia, and there are another 25,000 Cubans in Angola, according to U.S. estimates.

Mr. Vance told ABC-TV there was no reason for the forces to remain in Ethiopia now that its Ogaden desert war with Somalia was over.

Officials said Mr. Vance yesterday won an assurance from Somalia that it would not use force in any future attempt to change its borders with its neighbours in the Horn of Africa -- Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Israeli supreme court orders work on West Bank settlement to halt

TEL AVIV, May 25 (AP). — Three judges of Israel's Supreme Court issued a temporary order Thursday to stop land preparation for a Jewish settlement on land claimed by an Arab village in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, Israel Radio reported.

The ruling was an initial victory for the West Bank Palestinians in their first court challenge of land expropriation in the territory occupied since the 1967 war.

The radio said the high court judges ordered Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and the West Bank military government to halt land clearance for the Neve Tsuf settlement near the Arab village of Nabi Saleh, 20 miles north of Jerusalem.

The Defence Ministry also was ordered to take down a barbed-wire fence enclosing 50 acres of disputed land and to prove within 40 days why it should not permanently stop work on the site, the radio said.

Government attorneys had argued that the land in question had lain uncultivated and therefore could be taken for public use. The Jewish settlers, now about 15 families, live in a large border police station on the site, and the land preparation was required to provide them permanent housing.

A spokesman for the extremist Gush Emunim movement, the group organising much of the Jewish settlement in the West Bank, said it was confident the land eventually would be available for Neve Tsuf's use.

"We are sure the land belongs to the state and it will be possible to establish a blossoming settlement there," Gush Emunim leader Hanan Porat said in a prepared statement.

The 50 acres enclosed by the fence are on the side of a gentle, rocky slope which, Nabi Saleh Arabs told the Associated Press, is used for grazing and sometimes for growing grain crops.

A barbed-wire fence led up the hill to a border police station where 12 Gush Emunim families and two bachelors are living.



American heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey (above) performs Saudi Arabia's first open heart operation on a five-year old boy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The operation was performed by a team of twelve American doctors led by Dr. DeBakey, from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Five-year-old Mohammed Al Zahran, (right), is comforted by an unidentified member of the American surgical team. (AP wirephoto)



American heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey (above) performs Saudi Arabia's first open heart operation on a five-year old boy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The operation was performed by a team of twelve American doctors led by Dr. DeBakey, from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Five-year-old Mohammed Al Zahran, (right), is comforted by an unidentified member of the American surgical team. (AP wirephoto)

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It's full steam ahead at Aqaba Port as expansion plans show healthy early results

Text and photos by
Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA, — The Aqaba Port Authorities are almost embraced by their own success. Traffic through the port is increasing at a healthy rate and this year is expected to reach about 1.8 million tons. But despite this the port finds itself with double the capacity that it needs, even before its massive expansion project is anywhere near complete.

Two years ago, with a daily unloading capacity of only about 2,000 tons and congestion periods building up to 45 days, Jordan's only port seemed heavily under strain. Plans were drawn up then for a JD 17 million project to extend the existing port and orders were put in for two new floating berths from Japan.

But about the same time a new management team, headed by Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nuwar, was appointed. Within a short period handling capacity at the port was more than tripled. And with a few simple but effective measures the team found that congestion could be altogether eliminated.

They installed lighting, for instance, so that unloading could continue at night. They relieved the bottlenecks that had built up on the weighbridges and at the truck entrance to the port. And they levelled a new yard to increase the handling area at the harbour. The floating berths were anchored to the beach 5 kms. down the coast from the main port, and came into operation more or less immediately.

For the first time, the port authorities started drawing up detailed statistics. These reveal that in 1976 the port handled 1.3 million tons of cargo. In 1977 the figure was 1.4 million, and this year, Mr. Abu Nuwar told the Jordan Times, the port expects between 1.6 and 1.8 million. His projected figure for 1981, when the new berths should be in operation, is 2.2 million tons.

When the harbour extensions are complete, the port will have a large amount of spare capacity. But it was decided to go ahead with the project anyway, partly because the money was available — the Saudi Arabians provided 50 per cent of the cost in a long-term loan — and partly, as Mr. Abu Nuwar said, because "we are not only building for the next five years."

A transit port

It is hoped to make Aqaba into an important transit port serving not just Jordan but Saudi Arabia, Iraq and even Iran as well. Aqaba, Mr. Abu Nuwar explained, is half-way between Hamburg and Basra (Iraq's major port on the Arabian Gulf). It takes a ship between a week and ten days to make the journey from Europe to Aqaba, but 17 or 20 days to Basra. For large parts of Iraq it is not much further by road from Aqaba than it is from Basra. In short, freight charges can be reduced by as much as 30 per cent by shipping through Aqaba, Mr. Abu Nuwar said, and delivery times greatly reduced.

This year the port expects to be handling about 500,000 tons of Iraqi goods: about 200,000 for Iran and more than 100,000 for Saudi Arabia. In 1976 transit traffic amounted to 20 per cent of the port's business. Last year the figure dropped disappointingly to 8 per cent. This, Mr. Abu Nuwar said, was because of the heavy duties that were levied in Jordan on trucks passing through the country. But if forecasts are right transit traffic will be nearer to 50 per cent this year. The port authority is studying the possibility of lowering tariffs at the harbour by a "substantial" amount to encourage this trend.

Most of the cargo that arrives at Aqaba destined for Iraq

is in "containers". All the signs are that containerised traffic will account for about half the world's sea cargo within a few years. And work, is going ahead at Aqaba. Mr. Abu Nuwar said, to prepare for this. One of the floating berths has already been turned into a container terminal and a JD 1 million project is underway to increase Aqaba's container handling capacity from its present 15 per cent of total to 50 per cent within five years.

In the Area East, as the new floating port is known, an area of 80,000 square metres of heavy duty paving is being prepared by the National Construction Company. An underpass is also to be built, linking the new area with the existing one on the other side of the Saudi road. And tenders are going out for two straddle carriers — a special type of crane which uses a minimal amount of space as it manoeuvres between stacks of containers.

Outlet for phosphates exports

But Aqaba is of importance not just as a transit port but also as the major outlet for Jordan's exports. The first phosphate stores and berth were constructed at Aqaba way back in 1959. Since then phosphate handling capacity at the port has been increased nearly ten-fold and last year 1.7 million tons of the mineral powder was shipped out through Aqaba. The aim this year, Mr. Adel Sharie, Aqaba Branch Manager of the Phosphate Mines Company, told the Jordan Times, is to push that figure to 2.7 million tons.

At the southern end of the port two giant phosphate storage bins have just been built by Hudhud Shand and Pohl-Helck-Bleichert (PHB). Each of these has a capacity of 115,000 tons. They are a dramatic sight close to the water front — colossal and white and zig-zagged with elaborate conveyer lines. Parts of them disappear as the wind shifts and a very fine phosphate mist erases the scene.

From the stores the phosphate is rushed out along a complex of conveyors ending in two massive feeders that jut out high above the jetty. One of these is newly built and the other has been upgraded from a capacity of 1,500 tons per hour to 2,100 to bring it in line with the new one.

The last stage of this JD 12 million phosphate project at Aqaba includes the extension of one of the older berths by 80 metres — so that it will be able to dock ships of up to 100,000 tons — and the building of a second rail intake. Special facilities are needed at the port to allow the phosphate powder to be dropped straight out of rail wagons, down a shoot and into the conveyer system that will carry it up to the stores. Hudhud Shand are now doing the civil works for that, PHB will be undertaking the electrical and mechanical side of things.

Port expansion

Meanwhile at the other end of the port work is going ahead to extend the sea frontage by almost one km. After a good deal of hesitation, the authorities decided to go ahead with this JD 17 million project and last year awarded the contract to Aarmac-Shahin. The original plans, drawn up by Parsons Brown and Newton from the U.K. and Jouzy and Partners of Amman, have since been slightly modified; the late Dr. Ibrahim Kurdi (R.I.P.), then Projects Manager at the port, told the Jordan Times. (Dr. Kurdi died tragically soon after this interview.) The proposed new lighter berth extensions have been cancelled, he said. Instead space for an extra three 180-metre berths will be created on the east side of the reclaimed spit of land on which the harbour extension is to be

sited. This involves walling up the otherwise sloping sides of the earth fill which is being dumped in the sea at the moment.

One of the technical problems involved in building the port extension is knowing how well the coral sea bed will hold the steel columns that are to support the platform of the docks. Test piles (columns) are being sunk now.

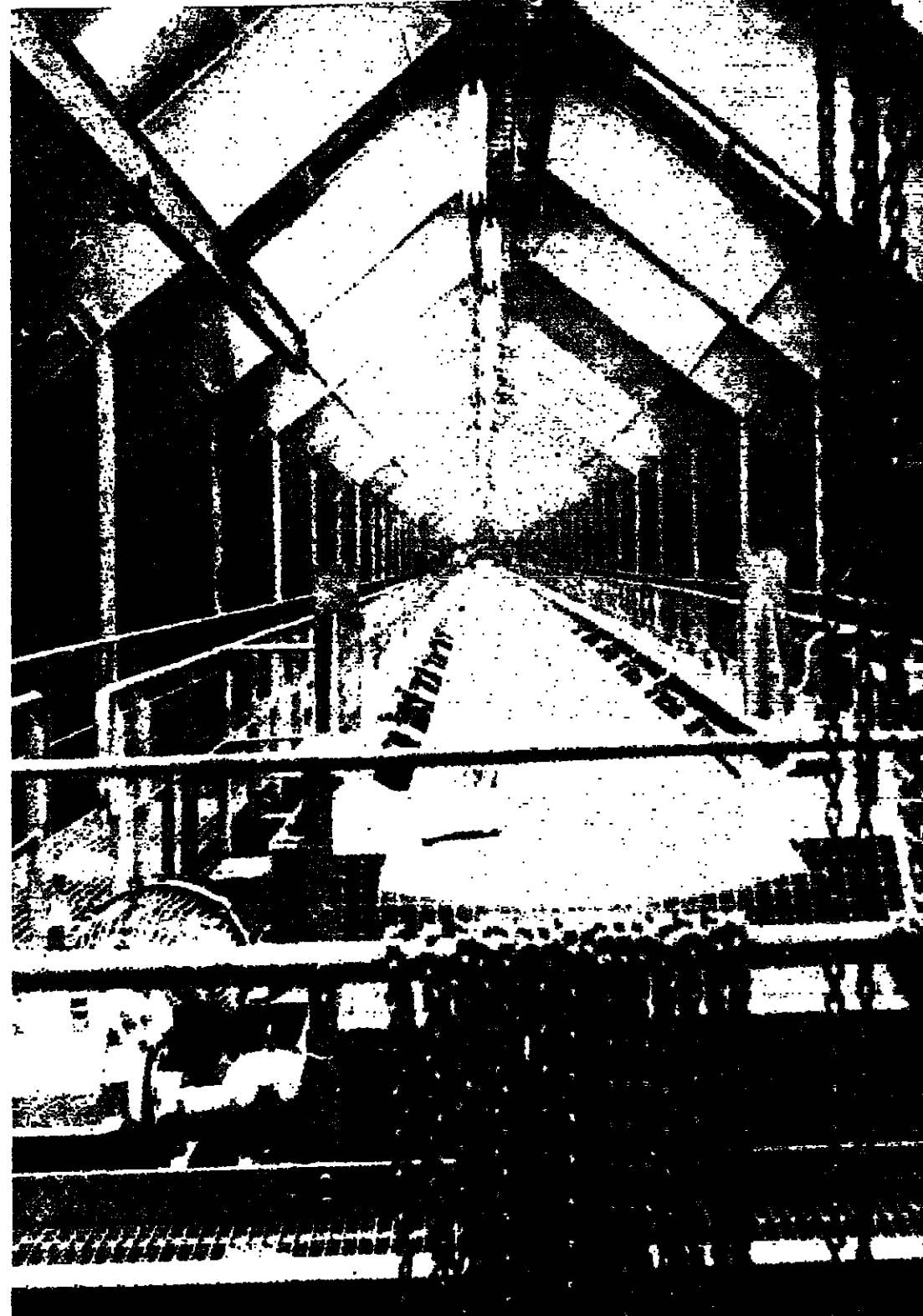
Meanwhile it has been decided to take the earth which is needed for the fill from a site much closer to the harbour than was originally proposed. This will have the merit of eventually providing the port with an almost ready-made extra handling area of 70,000 square metres, Dr. Kurdi said.

On top of all this, a short link road is being planned to give better access to the main Saudi highway and work is now also going ahead on a housing estate perched up in the hills, for port personnel. Dr. Kurdi estimated that this project alone would cost JD 1 million.

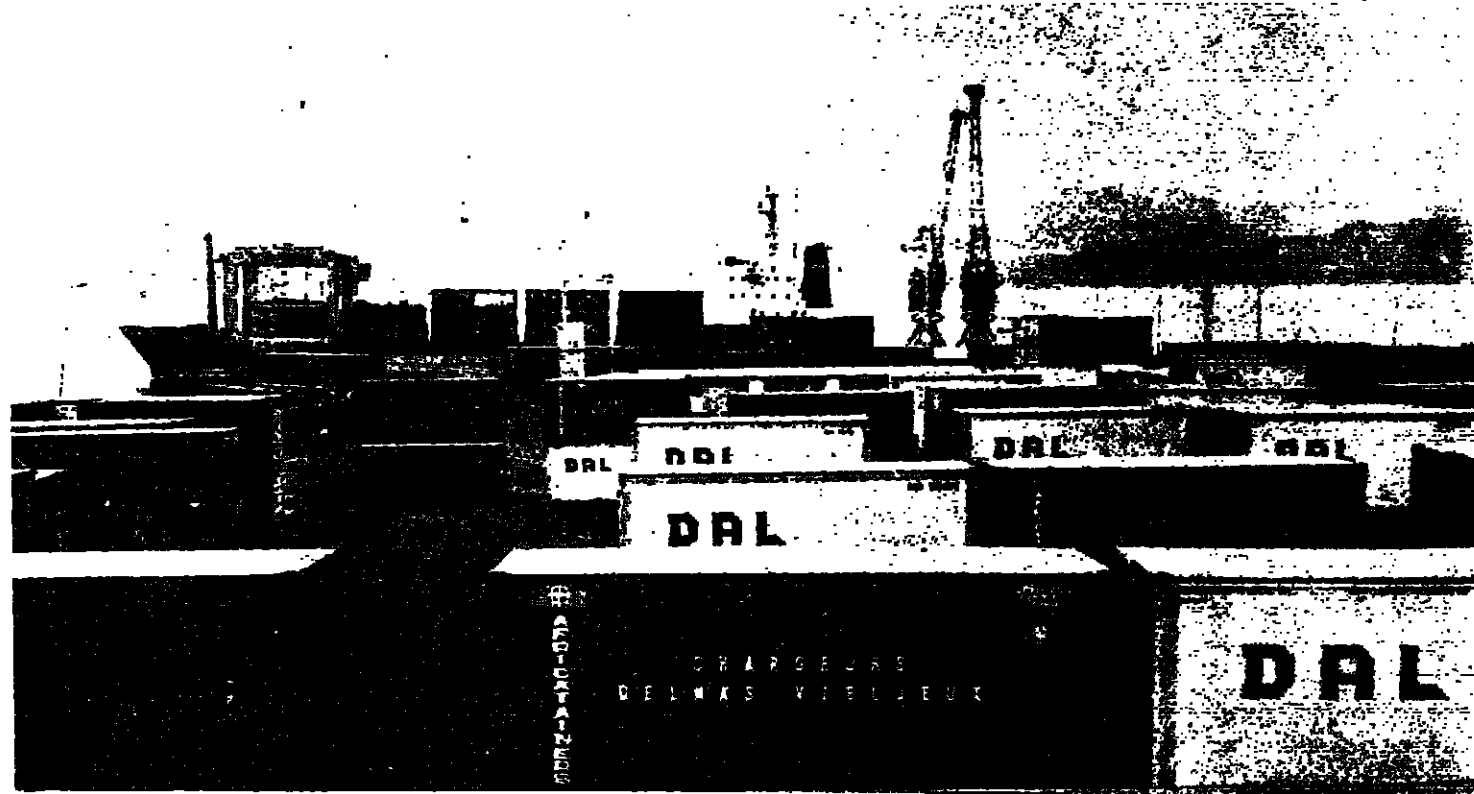
A cold store with a capacity of 500 tons is to be constructed close to the water front and Rendel Palmer and Tritton who have also been the consultants for the phosphate project, are looking into the question of providing potash handling facilities at the port. Potash will become a major export when production gets under way in 1982.

In the meantime, a new passenger terminal is nearing completion at the floating port. There are now regular boat runs between Jeddah, Aqaba and Suez, as well as a car ferry service.

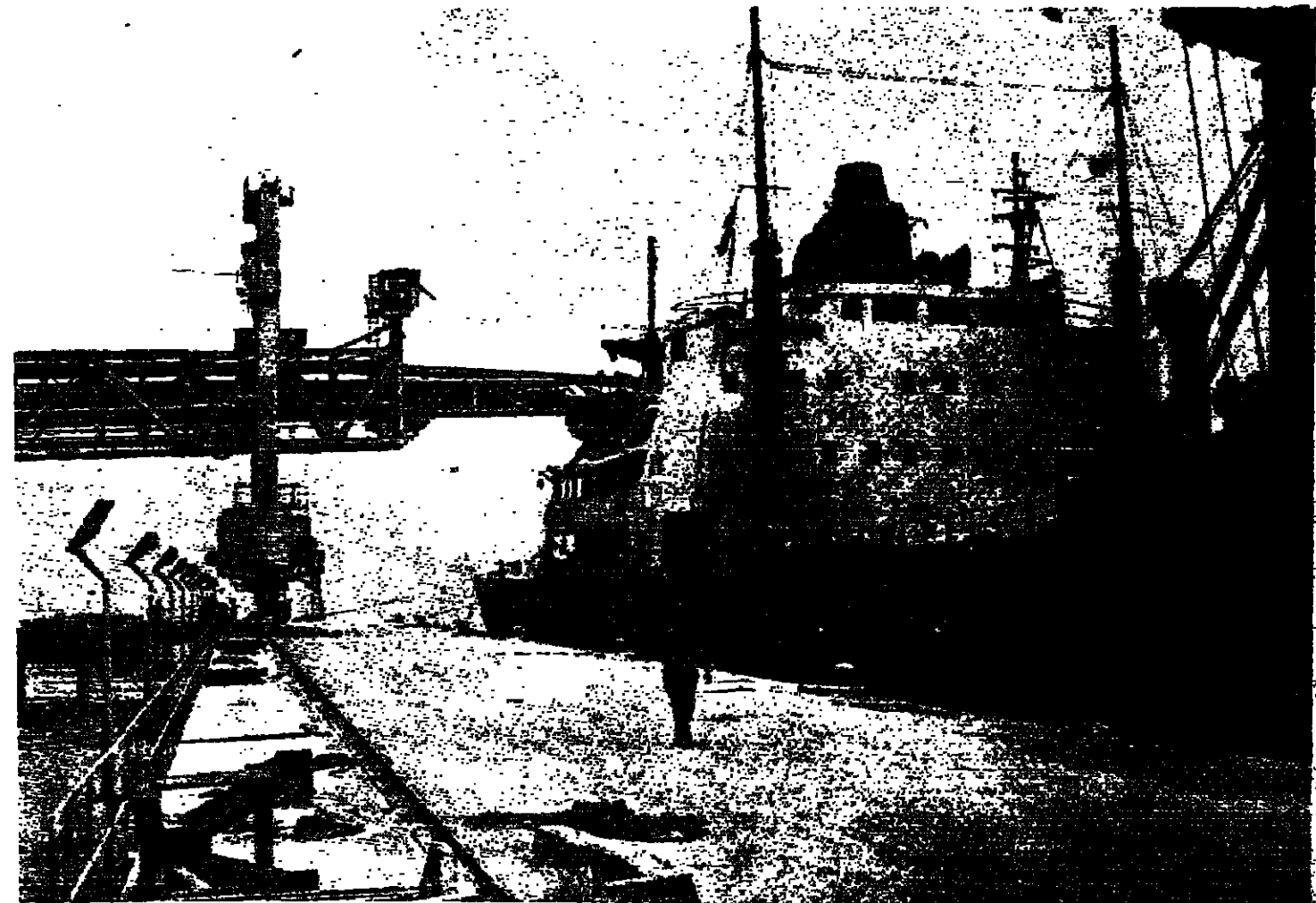
Finally, to ensure that there are people to run the expanded facilities at the port, a new training scheme is being devised. The final terms of an agreement with West Germany are being drawn up whereby equipment and instructors will be supplied to the Maritime corporations newly built college in the centre of Aqaba. It is to include a complete model of a ship's hold to give practical training in loading techniques. The college will be running six-month courses for port personnel. It is expected to launch off within about six months from now.



The top conveyor belt at the newly completed 115,000-ton store at Aqaba waits for its first consignment of phosphate.



More and more cargo in future will come in containers. Special handling facilities for them are being expanded at the new floating port at Aqaba.



Phosphate is fed on to a ship at Aqaba through one of the newly built high speed loaders.

An honest challenge for honest reporters

The short-lived furore in the occupied West Bank this week over Israeli plans to expropriate more Arab land to establish new Jewish settlements and cities centred on a possible change in the Israeli government's practice of seizing Arab land that is not privately owned, and leaving privately owned land alone. The matter seems to have been resolved by keeping this distinction operational, and private land, according to Israeli officials, will not be expropriated by the Israeli government.

This matter is worth investigating further, and we challenge our colleagues in the international press who are stationed in Israel to press ahead with honest investigations of Israeli practices in purchasing and expropriating Arab land in occupied territory. We challenge them, for example, to do a thorough investigation of the Israeli company, the Hemmutah Company, which is registered separately in Ramallah as a foreign company in the Arab Companies Registry. We challenge them to investigate Hemmutah's role as a cover to buy Arab land in the West Bank. We challenge them to investigate the organic links between Hemmutah and the Jewish National Fund, which has been described accurately as the foremost instrument in realising Zionist goals of land ownership in Palestine, as well as its links with the Israel Lands Administration. We challenge the international press in Israel and the occupied territories to investigate the full scope of how Israeli government and private agencies go about acquiring Arab land in occupied territories, through such means as "repossessing" lands that were owned by Jews before 1948, laying claim to public lands, military expropriation or secret purchases, through Hemmutah and other agencies and individuals.

Israel's aim has always been to establish a Jewish state in Palestine and to get rid of as many Palestinians as possible. A cardinal tool in this drive has been the acquisition of Palestinian land. There is a powerful story there, and we challenge our colleagues in the international press to tell that story to the world.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

On the occasion of Jordan's Army and Independence Day, which was celebrated Thursday, AL RAI newspaper said the message carried by Jordan and its Hashemite leadership was not intended merely to achieve national independence for Jordan. Rather, it was an all-embracing and revolutionary mission aimed at achieving unity, freedom and a better future for all the Arabs as the first manifesto of the leader of the great Arab Revolution stated.

For Jordan, independence was not an end in itself but a means to fulfill the principles of the Arab Revolution namely: unity, freedom and a prosperous future, the newspaper says, adding that in this context the linking of Independence Day with Army Day can be understood.

The army is the shield of independence and a symbol of the strength of an independent and sovereign state.

In another column on the same subject AL RAI says independence places on the people heavy burdens and grave responsibilities, particularly during hard times and periods of trying experiences when the only hope lies in strength supported by a sound ideology. Fortunately, the newspaper points out, these two qualities characterise the rank and file of the Jordanian army.

Ahmad Lawzi meets British "Young Conservatives"

AMMAN, May 25 (JNA). — President of Jordan's National Consultative Council Ahmad Lawzi yesterday met a delegation from the "Young Conservatives" branch of the British Conservative Party and discussed with them the Palestinian problem and Jordan's steadfast position based on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands, granting the Palestinians their rights including the right to self-determination in their homeland.

Mr. Lawzi briefed the delegation on the constitutional and parliamentary life in Jordan, the reasons for establishing the National Consultative Council and its role in serving the country.

Cinema critics wanted

The Jordan Times is looking for a qualified film critic to review films that are screened in Amman, both in the commercial cinemas as well as the cultural centres. We would like someone with previous experience in writing film reviews, and a proven expertise in the field of cinema and the performing arts in general. The position would probably involve writing one or two reviews per month, perhaps increasing to three or four per month with time. Interested persons who have the above qualifications and are interested in writing reviews for the Jordan Times should contact Mr. Khouri by telephone at the Jordan Times, at 67171, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Files are stacked and waiting at Aqaba. Within two years they will be supporting a 1 km. stretch of new berths at the port.

مركز امتحان الأمل

Excavations at Tell Mazar reveal a "fascinating" insight into Iron Age (1550-1200B.C.) burial practices

This is the last of a two-part series on recent excavation work at two archaeological sites in the Jordan Valley. Today's article deals with Tell Mazar.

Text and photos
By Susan Balderstone

Fascinating insight into the burial practices of the Iron Age inhabitants of Tell Mazar has been gained through the recently concluded excavation programme at the site.

During a recent field excursion by the Friends of Archaeology, Dr. Khair Yassine, director of excavations at Tell Mazar, guided his visitors through the cemetery site at the tell.

Here the excavating team has uncovered an extensive burial area dating back to 900 B.C. The earlier layer comprises at least three shaft tombs in which Iron Age pots were found. Dr. Yassine believes that this was a sanctuary area which continued to be used until the Persian period (549-331 B.C.).

The thirty-five skeletons of this later period were found in various positions all over the site. They were found partially dug into the ash layer

on which the foundations of the later structures were laid. The different postures of burial in which the skeletons were found are thought by Dr. Yassine to indicate specific religious practices of the period.

Some skeletons can still be seen as they remain in situ as found, others have been removed to the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Jordan where their bones will be studied by anthropologists.

A large collection of pots remains in situ at the northeast corner of the excavated area. These contained offerings to the dead. Here also is a child burial in a jar -- Dr. Yassine explained that children were buried like this because they were too small and fragile to be placed straight into the earth.

With many of the male (warrior) skeletons were found weapons and sharpening implements. Each warrior had seven arrowheads, some also had spears. One was found with

a spearhead in the back of his skull, others showed evidence of surgery in that the bones had drill holes. The presence of anklets and necklaces on some of the skeletons showed that the people were also buried wearing their jewelry.

The burial ground and sanctuary area is located on a small mound to the north of the main tell. Dr. Yassine's team began excavating the main tell last year and discovered only at the end of the season the exciting nature of the small mound to the north. During this season work was continued in three locations; the burial ground, the top of the tell, and the south slope of the tell.

The dig was funded by the Department of Antiquities and the University of Jordan.

Dr. Khair Yassine's students at the Department of History and Archaeology at the University joined the dig each Thursday in order to gain field work experience in conjunction with their courses. The dig team lived at the University Farm, several kilometres south of Deir 'Alla, in what amounted to luxury compared with the usual dig accommodation of tents. Here, said Dr. Yassine, "we even have hot showers!" Here also is a large workroom where the behind the scenes work is done on cleaning and marking the potsherds and artifacts, drawing them and drawing the survey plans of the excavation.

Work would begin on the tell at 6 a.m. and usually continued until 3 or 4 p.m., with breaks at 9 a.m. for tea and cookies and at noon for lunch. Friday was the hard-earned day off.

Excavation at the south slope of the tell has revealed occupation dating back to the 11th century B.C. A city wall and domestic buildings have been uncovered, all built of mud brick. Dr. Yassine explained that the great thickness and type of structure of the city wall was due to the fact that "for economical reasons they built two walls of mud brick and filled in between with earth. Later on, because of the pressure of the mound they decided to build buttresses for the wall."

Some of the site supervisors described the methods used in digging and the great care needed in order to correctly identify what was wall and what is just earth. "Sometimes we bring water and wet the earth and bring up the colours so we can see the line. Then we use brushes and scrape very slowly" said Dr. Yassine.

The difficulties were highlighted by Dr. Yassine in describing a floor in which there

are several round holes resembling fireplaces. "Things can be misleading. Last year we thought we had a foundry, this year we decided to test our hypothesis. It is actually a collapsed roof -- the fallen beams have made this structure. There was so much burning of the roof that the clay around the fallen timbers got so hard it made these beautifully rounded hearths."

The nearby Tell Deir 'Alla is concurrent with Tell Mazar. Excavations at that site have provided a pottery chronology which Dr. Yassine's team is using to date the pottery found at Tell Mazar. "We have mostly similar pottery, some things are different, but we are using the same chronology," he said.

Tell Deir 'Alla (described in the previous article) has been excavated by Dr. Franken of Lieden, Holland and Dr. Moawiyah Ibrahim of the Jordan Department of Antiquities. Believed by some to be the Biblical Succoth, mentioned in the story of Jacob and the angel, occupation of the site has been traced from the Middle Bronze Age (1550-1500 B.C.) through the Late Bronze Age (1500-1200 B.C.) and Iron Age I and II (1200-539 B.C.) to the Persian period (539-332 B.C.).

The top of the tell affords a view of metallurgy have been found. Surrounding the a magnificent view of the surrounding valley, and more ancient mounds of civilisation. A little to the south, next to the road, is the great bulk of Tell Deir 'Alla. To the north, over against the Jordan River, is Tell Saybiyeh where mud-brick-lined tombs and ev-tells is rich green cultivation highlighted by the glint of sunlight on the polythene "greenhouses" and on water in the irrigation channels.

The latest period of occupation of Tell Mazar has been exposed on top of the tell. This is the Hellenistic phase (332-63 B.C.). Copper pieces and inscribed pottery so far discovered lead Dr. Yassine to believe that the last phase of Persian occupation continued into this Hellenistic period.

The structure and many storage silos suggest that at this period the site was a centre of military control. Dr. Yassine believes that the building was perhaps a government or official building of some kind. It is a stone structure which Dr. Yassine pointed out is consistent with Hellenistic culture.

Various species of grain have been found in the silos including barley. There were also broad beans, olives and fish-bones. Many implements such as pottery and alabaster ladies show foreign influence indicating considerable trading, and the one coin found to date is believed to have come from a passing traveller. It is a coin of Alexander Jannaeus' reign, dated 1st century B.C.



A child burial in a pot.



Dr. Yassine (centre) points out a shaft tomb at the burial site of Tell Mazar to some members of the Friends of Archaeology.



One of the skeletons remaining in situ.



Dr. Khair Yassine describing the burial ground at Tell Mazar from the edge of the excavations.



The "foundry".

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ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to get together with good friends and have enjoyable talks that could lead to good things for all. Express happiness.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Fine day for contacting an influential person and getting the support you need for important projects you have in mind.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Engage in a new interest that could be most satisfying to you. Make plans to have increased prosperity in the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you go to the right sources for the information you need. Take time to engage in community affairs.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Understand better what is expected of you by associates and carry through to the best of your ability. Show that you have wisdom.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) By cooperating more with co-workers you can increase production appreciably and gain more benefits. Make plans for the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Engage in recreational activities with congenials after your work is done and enjoy yourself. Avoid one who is a spendthrift.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Sit down with a trusted adviser and come to right decisions for the future. Strive for increased harmony in the home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Good day to have conference with associates and figure ways to have increased productivity. Be more optimistic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Involve yourself more in practical affairs ahead of you, especially in property matters. Build up a cash reserve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Contact those whose life is most successful and find the right formula for your own advancement. Be more thoughtful of others.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your hunches more and you can advance in life more quickly. A new project needs more study to be successful.

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Turkey returns to oil importing to sustain Atas refinery capacity

ANKARA, May 25 (R). — The first shipment of foreign oil to be imported for the Atas refinery in southern Turkey in three months was offloaded yesterday just five days before a government deadline threatening nationalisation.

The Energy Ministry had given Mobil and British Petroleum until Sunday to resume full production or have their shares nationalised.

The refinery at the southern port of Mersin has been

running at less than half capacity for three months because the companies said they could not import more oil until overdue payments had been made.

Oil industry sources said

the Finance Ministry had cleared transfers for the 42,000-ton cargo of British Petroleum crude which arrived in Mersin Tuesday and for another 40,000 ton Mobil shipment due there within the next few days.

They said this did not necessarily mean that the problem of payments had been solved.

The refinery had been running largely on oil from wells in eastern Turkey.

But workers on a pipeline connecting those fields to the Atas refinery went on strike Tuesday and union officials say supplies to Mersin could dry up in the next two days.

This would mean that even with fresh supplies of imported oil the refinery will still be working at well below capacity.

Government officials have said measures are being taken to prevent shortages.

World is heading for oil shortage in five years, say experts

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, May 25 (AP). — The world will face an oil shortage as early as 1983 unless steps are taken now to reduce consumption and develop alternative power sources, according to an international group of energy experts meeting here.

Dr. U. A. Lantze, Director of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, told delegates to the European Petroleum and Gas Conference that an international effort was needed to avert an early oil crisis.

Otherwise there will be a shortage in only five years time, resulting in heavy price rises which will hit Western European nations the hardest, he warned.

The delegates called for action to introduce other sources of energy -- such as nuclear, solar and wind -- before the world's oil wells start drying up. At the same time they urged the industrialised nations to try to cut down consumption.

The oil finds in the North Sea and Alaska will at best defer a shortage for a few years only, Dr. Lantze said. He added the world should not be misled by the current surplus of oil.

Hungary to drill Iraq oil wells

BUDAPEST, May 25 (R). —

Hungary is to drill 20 oil wells in Iraq under an agreement announced here yesterday.

The official MTI News Agency said a group of oil experts left Budapest to cover ten borings in Iraq's Majnoon region. The other ten drillings in South Rumaila will be carried out by Hungarians already in the country.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ROUNDUP

St. Louis ends 11-game losing streak

NEW YORK, May 25 (AP). — John Denny's two-hitter and Ted Simmons' two-run single enabled the St. Louis Cardinals to halt their 11-game losing streak last night with a 2-0 victory over Montreal.

In other early National League games, Chicago beat Philadelphia 6-4 in ten innings, Pittsburgh beat New York 8-5 in ten innings, San Francisco blanked Houston 2-0 and Cincinnati edged Atlanta 5-4.

In early American League action, Baltimore split a doubleheader with Detroit, losing 3-2 and winning 1-0, and Boston beat Toronto 8-2.

Manny Trillo's two-out, two-run homer gave Chicago its victory and vaulted the Cubs into first place in the N.L. East, one-half game ahead of the Phillies.

Rennie Stennett's bases-loaded single drove in two runs and catapulted the Pirates past New York, overshadowing Willie Montanez' two home runs for the Mets, one of them in the top of the tenth.

San Francisco maintained its hold on first place in the West, one game ahead of Cincinnati, when pinch-hitter Vic Harris delivered a two-run single in the sixth inning against Houston.

The second-place Reds scored three runs in the eighth inning, the decisive one coming home when Mickey Mahler walked Joe Morgan with the bases loaded.

Andres Mora's home run and Jim Palmer's six-hitter gave Baltimore its nightcap triumph after the Tigers won the opener on a ninth-inning single by Aurelio Rodriguez.

Jack Brohamer and Carlton Fisk of Boston each hit homers to back Mike Torrez's seven-hitter against the Blue Jays.

In a late N.L. game, San Diego trounced Los Angeles 9-3. In the A.L., California trimmed Chicago 4-1, Milwaukee routed Oakland 7-1, Texas edged

ed Minnesota 3-2 in 11 innings and Kansas City topped Seattle 6-3.

Tucker Ashford and Oscar Gamble combined for five hits and five runs battled in for San Diego to drop the third-place Dodgers two games behind San Francisco.

Chris Knapp hurled a four-hitter and Don Baylor and Bobby Grich slammed homers to send California into first place in the A.L. West, five percentage points ahead of the A's.

Major league baseball results and standings after Wednesday's games:

NATIONAL LEAGUE:

EAST:

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	20	17	.541	—
Philadelphia	19	17	.528	½
Montreal	20	20	.500	1 ½
Pittsburgh	18	21	.462	3
New York	19	23	.452	3 ½
St. Louis	15	26	.366	7

WEST:

	W	L	PCT.	GB
San Francisco	25	14	.641	—
Cincinnati	26	17	.605	1
Los Angeles	24	17	.585	2
Houston	18	20	.474	6 ½
San Diego	19	22	.463	7
Atlanta	15	24	.385	10

Wednesday's games:

Cincinnati 5, Atlanta 4

Chicago 6, Philadelphia 4, ten innings

San Francisco 2, Houston 0

Pittsburgh 6, New York 5, ten innings

St. Louis 2, Montreal 0

San Diego 9, Los Angeles 3

AMERICAN LEAGUE:

EAST:

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Boston	27	15	.643	—
Detroit	24	14	.632	1
New York	24	14	.632	1
Milwaukee	20	19	.513	5 ½
Cleveland	18	20	.474	7
Baltimore	18	22	.450	8
Toronto	15	25	.375	11

WEST:

	W	L	PCT.	GB
California	23	16	.590	—
Oakland	24	17	.585	½
Kansas City	21	19	.525	2 ½
Texas	20	19	.513	3
Minnesota	17	25	.405	7 ½
Seattle	16	29	.356	10
Chicago	12	25	.324	10

Wednesday's games:

Detroit 3-0, Baltimore 2-1

Boston 8, Toronto 2

Cleveland at New York, postponed, rain

Texas 3, Minnesota 2, 11 innings

Milwaukee 7, Oakland 1

California 4, Chicago 1

Kansas City 6, Seattle 5

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of interbank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

	1.8132/37	U.S. dollars
One sterling	2,1205/20	West German marks
One dollar	2,2680/2710	Dutch guilders
	1,9555/75	Swiss francs
	33,10/13	Belgian francs
	4,6640/70	French francs
	871,30/60	Italian lire
	225,55/70	Japanese yen
	4,6800/10	Swedish crowns
	5,4610/25	Norwegian crowns
	5,7135/50	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Prices closed firm Thursday after ICI's higher than expected first quarter results and at 15:00 F.T. index was up 4.8 at 478.8.

Short-dated government bonds firmed up to 3/8 after news that the minimum lending rate will be set on consultation with the chancellor of the exchequer, dealers said.

Gold shares, U.S. and Canadian issues were all easier.

ICI was the most active issue and it closed 2p off its high at 387 for a net rise of 9p compared with yesterday's close.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$178.60/oz.

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"Well, we now have a phone in our car. I crashed into a telephone booth."

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BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 8
♥ A K 7 4
♦ 9 3
♣ A 5 3

WEST
♥ 7 5 3
♦ Q 6 2
♣ K J 10
♠ J 8 7 6

EAST
♠ 6 2
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ 8 7 6 5 4 2
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 4
♥ 10 8
♦ A Q
♣ K Q 10 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1NT Pass 3♦ Pass
3♥ Pass 3♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 5♦ Pass
5♥ Pass 5NT Pass
7♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♣.

You don't get a bonus for bidding a grand slam—you have to make it as well. South only achieved half his goal on this deal.

North opened one no trump despite his weak doubleton because he feared he would not otherwise be able to properly describe his hand. When South forced in clubs, North liked his controls, so he showed his lower four-card major. Once the spade fit had been located, cue-bids in the red suits were followed by a general grand slam try of five no trump by South. North, with two of the top three trump honors and the

ace of clubs, was happy to cooperate.

West led a trump and declarer saw no problem. He won and drew two more rounds of trumps, then set about running the clubs. When that suit broke 4-1, declarer had to use dummy's last trump to ruff a club and set up a long club. That forced declarer to fall back on the diamond finesse for his grand slam. Unfortunately, West held the king of diamonds, and that meant down one.

Declarer was unlucky to find both four clubs and the diamond king in the West hand, but foresight would have enabled him to bring home his contract despite the distribution. He should have realized that a 4-1 break in either black suit could cause problems, and set about trying to neutralize that threat.

Declarer should win the opening lead in dummy and cash the king and ace of hearts. Now declarer should ruff a heart, then re-enter dummy with the ace of clubs. Next declarer ruffs dummy's last heart with the ace of trumps and overtakes the jack of trumps. When both defenders follow, the contract is assured.

Declarer simply draws the last trump, discarding the queen of diamonds from his hand. He cashes the king-queen of clubs and ruffs a club to set up the fifth club. His last two cards are the ace of diamonds and a club, both of which are high.

